

Lettre de la présidente

Fall 2013

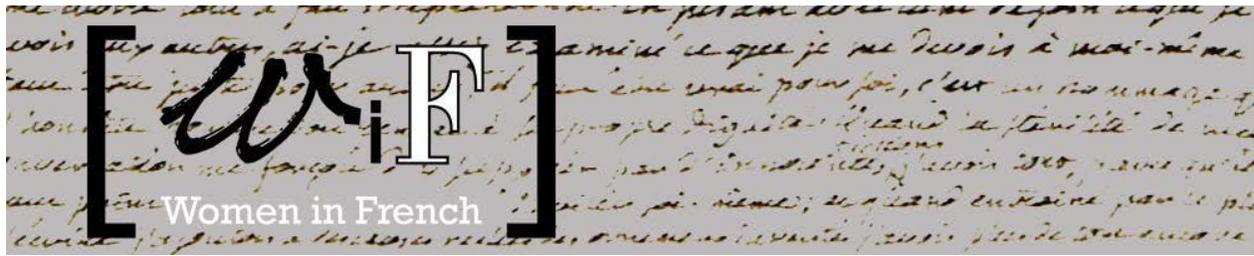
Dear colleagues,

It's my pleasure to share with you all in this letter some recent developments as well as news about some future events that continue to demonstrate the vitality of Women in French. As I indicated in the spring Newsletter, one of our goals this past year has been to enhance WIF's networking capabilities and to attract graduate students. Jenny Meyer, our outgoing graduate student representative and newly minted Ph.D., has created a Twitter account titled "Women In French" associated with a Gmail account WomenInFrench@gmail.com. WIF members can email announcements (jobs, CFP's, etc.) to the Gmail account. The WIF Twitter manager will sculpt the announcement into a "tweet-able message" and then tweet it. My thanks to Jenny and also congratulations to her on the birth of her daughter, Elody Anne. My thanks also to our vice-president, Cecilia Beach, who has created a Facebook page for us. If you haven't already done so, please check it out at www.facebook.com/WomeninFrench and "like" us. Please feel free to post your announcements on the page.

The WIF Directory is now available on our website www.womeninfrench.org. It includes only the member's name, institutional affiliation, and email address. It is password-protected and the password has been sent to members via the WIF listserv. If you do not wish to have your name listed in the directory, please contact Michèle Schaal, our web manager: mschaal@iastate.edu. My thanks to Michèle for the all the wonderful work she has done on our bilingual website.

Another initiative we have started is the opportunity for graduate students to practice their job interview skills by means of a mock interview via Skype with one of our "seasoned" volunteer members. If you missed the first call, there is still the possibility of arranging for a mock interview before the end of the semester. Please contact me directly: magarnett@ualr.edu. I wish to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have volunteered to conduct the interviews. As of the time this letter is being written, they include Eileen Angelini (Canisius C.), Frédérique Chevillot (U. Denver), Natalie Edwards (U. Adelaide), Wendy Freeman (Rice), Michèle Magnin (U. San Diego), Catherine Montfort (Santa Clara U.), Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch (St. Angelo State), E. Nicole Meyer (UW-Green Bay), Catherine Poisson (Wesleyan C.), Michelle Scatton-Tessier (UC-Wilmington) and Juliette Rogers (Macalester C.).

I hope to see many of you at the MLA convention in Chicago in January. As an Allied organization, we are guaranteed a session which this year is a roundtable, "Voyages de femmes, entrepris et rapportés: Représentations littéraires et/ou artistiques," proposed by Christine Probes (U. Florida). We also submitted a second "non-guaranteed" session proposal (the runner-up from our election) that was accepted. That session, "French and Francophone Feminism(s), 2014," was organized by Heidi Bostic (Baylor). Abstracts for the sessions have been posted on the Women in French webpage under "Agenda."



In addition, we joined with the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages (WCMLA) to propose a collaborative session that was accepted. The topic for that session is "Feminist Vulnerability on Post-Feminist Campuses: Alt-Academic Feminism" and it will be chaired by WIF's Nicole Meyer (UW- Green Bay). Because we are collaborating with WCMLA this year, WIF will also help sponsor their social event/cash bar scheduled for 8:45-10:00 p.m. Thursday evening, January 9 in Chicago VIII, Sheraton. Other co-sponsors are the Ages Discussion Group, Feministas Unidas, GL/Q Caucus, and Women in German. We will hold our business meeting (open to all WIF members) during part of that time. Please join us if you can.

In this *Newsletter* you will find the slate of candidates and their statements for election to the positions of President, Vice-President, Graduate Student Representative and Representatives for Central and Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, Middle Atlantic, and South. **The election will be held electronically in December and you will receive notification via the WIF listserv. At the same time, we will be voting on a topic for our guaranteed session at the MLA in Vancouver in 2015. Please submit your proposal (200-250 words) to me by Friday November 15, 2013.** Normally, the person who proposes the session also chairs the session. The chosen topic is then open to ALL our members to propose papers.

We are looking forward to our seventh international Women in French Conference, "Women and Memory," May 22-24, 2014 at the University of Guelph in Ontario, organized by Dawn Cornelio, Margot Irvine, and Karin Schwerdtner. The conference website is <https://www.uoguelph.ca/solal/wif2014>. WIF will be able to provide limited travel support to selected graduate students who will be presenting a paper at the conference. Criteria for the awards and application forms will be posted in January 2014.

Best wishes to all for a happy and productive academic year.

Mary Anne Garnett
University of Arkansas at Little Rock